

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee
Business Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 4 PM
Senior Center: Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Byron Koh, Kathy Woods Masalski, Helen MacMellon, Florence Boynton, Aaron Kropf

Members Absent: Stephanie Joyce, Amy Springer, Denise Boyd

Others: Yuko Takahashi, Nancy Pagano (Staff Liaison),

At 4 PM, the Meeting was called to order by Kathy Woods Masalski, Interim Chair

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of May 24th were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reports we have \$1,116.82 in our Kanegasaki Sister City Gift Account.

Continuing Discussion of October Invitation

This October unfortunately it is not feasible that representatives from the KSCC, Emily Dickinson Museum, and Town Hall will be able to attend the ten year anniversary celebration of Kanegasaki's Emily Dickinson Resource Center located in their library. The KSCC has decided that as an alternative it will send gifts as well as greetings by videotape. Messages from the Select Board, Town Manager, Emily Dickinson Museum and Jones Library will hopefully all be included. Kathy will compose a letter to the Mayor with this information.

Planning for Bertucci's Fundraising Event:

This second fundraiser for Japan will be held on Tuesday, July 19th, from 5:30-9:00 PM at Bertucci's. 15% of the proceeds will be given to the KSCC for Japan Relief. Members of the KSCC will be responsible for seeing to it that there is a great turnout for this very important event. Invitations with flyers are being emailed to friends of the KSCC past and present and information is on the Town website. Bertucci's has prepared a flyer which diners should show when they come to the restaurant, but KSCC members will have extras available to hand out that evening so no one should stay away if they don't have one with them.

Ms. Kimura's Visit to Amherst

When KSCC member Aaron Kropf and his wife visited Sendai last summer they were hosted by Ms. Kimura and her husband and developed a strong friendship. This July the favor will be returned when the Kimuras visit Amherst. This is not an official visit but an informal one. Ms. Kimura is planning on continuing her Emily Dickinson research during this visit and she has a relationship with Kanegasaki's Lifelong Learning Center. KSCC members are looking forward to welcoming Ms. Kimura and assisting her during her stay here.

Kathy will visit the Special Collections staff at the Jones and speak to Kate Boyle (Special Collections Assistant) to be expecting Ms. Kimura who will want to have research time there.

Other: The Town Manager sent over a copy of a thank you that was sent to our Select Board Chair from Kanegasaki by Mayor Takahashi for the donations we sent to Japan from our March fundraiser. Kanegasaki is housing thirty disaster victims in their town and also sending staff to the disaster-stricken area "to support its administrative affairs." Besides the town staff, Kanegasaki citizens are also devoting their energies to the recovery.

The Mayor reported that no one in Kanegasaki was injured from the Tohoku Earthquake, but there was some damage to the town's buildings including their Carillon Tower of their Town Hall and "some cultural properties".

Election of Officers for FY11: Kathy Woods Masalski was elected as Interim Chair, Nancy Pagano was elected as Secretary and Florence Boynton was re-elected as Treasurer.

Next Meeting (undecided): Either Tuesday, September 20th or Thursday, September 22nd, 2011, at 4 PM, Bangs Community Center's Alice Dowd Lounge

Meeting Adjourned: 5:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Staff Liaison